

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06338 010800Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /042 W

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R 301139Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5639

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6338

EO 11652: NA

GRAGS: SOPN, PINS, IN, US

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL TV NEWS NETWORK

1. A WASHINGTON AREA TV OUTFIT CALLING ITSELF THE INTERNATIONAL
TV NEWS NETWORK IS TRAVELLING IN INDIA AND IS HERE TO VIDEO
TAPE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. THOUGH THE EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE HAD TELEPHONE CONTACT
WITH GROUP, THEY HAVE AVOIDED ACTUAL MEETINGS, TWICE CANCELLED
THEIR ASSIGNMENT OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH THEIR
TRIP TO INDIA.

3. A CHECK OF RADIO-TV DIRECTORIES GIVES US NO CLUE TO THE
INDIVIDUALS (IRVING KIPNES, LARRY CRAVEN, PETER BURGASS,
JIM HANSEN) OR ORGANIZATION AND WE HAVE NOT HAD AN ALERT FROM
THE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT ABOUT THEIR VISIT.

4. COMMENT: IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE BRIEFED AND
HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GOI SPONSORED JOURNALISTS
VISITS BY MARTIN GERCHEN (COPY NEWSPAPERS, SAN DIEGO
EVENING TRIBUNE) AND DAVID MOORE (THE CONNECTICUT BUSINESS
JOURNAL. WE UNDERSTAND THEIR TRANSPORTATION AND EXPENSES
HAVE BEEN PAID BY THE GOI. WE ASSUME THE INTERNATIONAL
TV NETWORK MAY BE HERE UNDER A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT AS IT
IS HARD TO CONCEIVE HOW ELSE AN UNKNOWN NEWS PRODUCTION
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COMPANY COULD OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT TO INTERVIEW MRS GANDHI.

IN ADDITION TO THESE INITIATIVES IN THE MEDIA DHARAM BIR SINHA (DEPUTY MINISTER, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING) AND OM METHA (MINISTER OF STATE, WORKS AND HOUSING) WERE ON IMAGE BUILDING, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SPEAKING TOURS IN THE U.S. THIS MONTH. THESE ACTIVITIES FIT INTO A PROGRAM MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY IN THE LOK SABHA BY THE DEPUTY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER BIPIN PAL DAS. "A VIGOROUS CORRECTIVE EFFORT" HE SAID, HAS BEEN AND WAS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR AND THE INDIAN MISSION TO COUNTER "DISTORTED AND INACCURATE REPORTING IN A SECTION OF THE U.S. MEDIA."

SAXBE

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